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Red Arrow Highway Improvement Project to commence next month
PAGE 3



SLU, site plan request for RNG plant withdrawn
PAGE 4

Grand Beach Village Council continues short term rental ordinance discussion
PAGE 5

Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber announces Business Recognition Award winners
PAGE 6

Raiders lose to Mendon at River Valley
PAGE 10

Courthouse painted by artist rediscovering his talent
PAGE 17



RUMBLE ON...
**BISON STAMPEDE MUSTANGS
IN BOYS' BASKETBALL**

— PAGE 9 —

PHOTO BY STAN MADDUX

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Red Arrow Highway Improvement Project to commence next month

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The Red Arrow Highway Improvement Project from Berrien Street to Lakeshore Road in Chikaming Township will be picking up speed

within the next week or so, it was said at a question-and-answer session with the Berrien County Road Department at Chikaming Township Center Thursday, Feb. 20.

Adri Boone, communications coordinator for the road department, said that the project encompasses the last piece in the “south portion corridor” of Red Arrow Highway.

Work began last fall, when concrete joints repairs were completed.

The project's first phase will involve three culvert replacements on the section of the road that's being resurfaced. Two culverts will be replaced between Acorn Path and Lakeside Road and the third culvert replacement will be located between Lakeshore Drive and Brown Road, with hard road closures occurring during the replacements.

Berrien County Road Department Engineering Supervisor Kevin Stack said that signage will be put up that will detour commercial traffic, which is semi-trucks, to Interstate 94. Local traffic, he said is “going to find a way around” the work zone.

Signage will ensure that drivers know that businesses are still open during the construction.

Beginning the week of March 3 and through the first phase, the detour route be implemented to allow for tree removal where the culverts are located. The road will be reopened to thru traffic by approximately May 1.

Asphalt work, which will include milling and paving, to the road will be done in the

second and third phases, which will begin May 1. Phase Two will involve eastside road construction (the non-lake Michigan side), and phase three will involve the center lane road construction. During the fourth phase, construction will be done on the nonmotorized trail and the westside road (the Lake Michigan side).

By Memorial Day, Stack said that the goal is for everything to be “95 percent fully functional,” with some restoration work and putting the guardrail up on the trail that may still need to be done, and that “the road will be open as it should function without any traffic control.”

Most of the project will be concluded by June 30 and final completion is scheduled for Nov. 1.

Stack said that 1.05 miles of the highway between Lakeside and Lakeshore roads will go from having the dedicated center left turn lane to having a passing lane feature. Two lanes will go northbound, where vehicles will stay right except to pass another vehicle. Meanwhile, one lane will go southbound, where passing will be permitted in single-lane direction when traffic is clear.

“We're hoping, since this area doesn't have the demand for a protected left hand turn movement, that this will provide more of a benefit to help reduce that level of tailgating because you have to follow for another five miles - it'll give you a point to pass,” he said.

Stack said that the second week will involve digging out and replacing the culverts, which will begin south and then move north. Depending on the project's status, Stack said the highway may be opened up to further to local traffic as progression moves up with the culverts. Culvert work should take three to

four weeks. Stack said that other work underneath the closure, such as ripping up the outside lane for the path and milling up the rest of the road, may also be done.

The nonmotorized trail will include areas where curb and gutter are present; areas where there's long separation, or green space, between the road and where the path is plotted and “guardrail separation sections,” with guardrail being present where there isn't suitable greenspace.

Sack said that the nonmotorized path will continue from where it currently ends at Whistle Stop in Union Pier and connect all the way up to Cherry Beach.

“When we're done, you'll be able to ride basically from U.S. 12 all the way to Sawyer,” he said, referring to the path in New Buffalo Township.

In January, New Buffalo Township adopted a resolution in favor of requesting the Michigan Department of Transportation to do a traffic study of that section of U.S. 12, which runs through the township and the city, to see if it's a candidate for a road diet. Stack said he hasn't heard an update from the city with regards to a resolution.

“They're trying to figure out how to get that nonmotorized connection piece from (U.S.) 12 to the City of New Buffalo,” Stack said.

It's hoped the path will eventually connect to the Marquette Greenway, which will run from Chicago to New Buffalo.

“I believe in the next five years, you should be able to ride your bike from Chicago to St. Joe,” he said.

The greatest Art of all is the ability to distinguish between Good and evil.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times
Democracy Requires Transparency

- CITY OF NEW BUFFALO**
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
- CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
- NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD**
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
- NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
- SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY**
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
- NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
- NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD**
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
- CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
- CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
- THREE OAKS THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD**
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
- VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD**
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
- GRAND BEACH**
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
- MICHIANA**
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

SLU, site plan request for RNG plant withdrawn

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

According to a notice that was posted on the Three Oaks Township website, applicant Archaea Energy “voluntarily withdrew” its application for special land use and site plan approval to construct a renewable natural gas (RNG) plant at 19611 and 19649 Basswood Road in Three Oaks Township, which resulted in the cancellation of the Three Oaks Township Planning Commission meeting at the former Three Oaks Elementary School meeting Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Per the notice that was posted shortly before the meeting, the Commission was expected to discuss and potentially vote on the Special Land Use but had to cancel it “due to a lack of agenda items.”

A previous notice, which was posted Friday, Feb. 21, stated that the Special Land Use permit was being requested by Forest Lawn Landfill Inc. (FLL INC.) in conjunction with Lightning Renewables LLC/Archaea Energy, Inc. to “allow the development of a renewable natural gas plant in an area zoned Agriculture – Rural Residential District.”

In a letter that was addressed to the Commission that was posted on the website, Paul “Butch” Frey, regional external affairs manager for Archaea Energy, said that, on behalf of Archaea Energy, “regarding the Application for Special Land Use on property owned by FLL Inc., I respectfully withdraw the Application for Special Land Use for a Renewable Natural Gas Plant at 19649 and 196111 Basswood Road.”

“I anticipate no further action on these properties currently,” Frey said in the letter.

Two packed public hearings concerning the Special Land



Members of the public express their concerns for the proposed RNG plant last June in the former elementary school

Use application took place last year at the Three Oaks American Legion Post 204 Feb. 20 and at the former elementary school June 25, during which most meeting attendees spoke out in opposition of the proposal RNG plant.

Representatives from Archaea were present at both public hearings as well as an open house regarding the project in the upper level of Froehlich’s in Three Oaks June 20, 2024.

Per a handout, the BP-acquired Archaea Energy, Inc. was proposing the development of an RNG facility to process landfill gas being produced by the neighboring Republic Services Landfill for commercial use.

“Landfill gas containing methane, CO2, and other impurities goes through a multi-step process using specialized cleaning and conditioning equipment to become pipeline-quality RNG,” the handout stated.

The renewable natural gas plant, which was expected to cost nearly \$10 million in construction costs, was expected to be built on property that would be leased from Republic for 20 years.

Concerns from residents ranged from the facility’s potential environmental and health impacts of the area as well as the noise that may be generated from the plant, possibly all day and every day, on the property site and a mile away, the tree removal and the overall landscape, lighting and traffic, and lack of communication over the proposed project.

“When you look at things of nuisance levels of noise, light, traffic, etc. that are not harmonious with the district it’s in - then you can’t grant the special land use,” one resident said at the Feb. 20, 2024, meeting.

Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever.
— Napoleon Bonaparte

Grand Beach Village Council continues short term rental ordinance discussion

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Grand Beach Village Council approved having their village attorney draft a document with the proposed amendments to the village's short-term rental ordinance, which will be formally voted on at their March meeting, at their meeting Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Council president Harry Walder said that four or five years ago, the Planning Commission was tasked with coming up with a short-term rental ordinance, which the planners modeled after neighboring towns and villages.

Saying that they tried to "come up with something that was fair to everybody," Walder said that the village council at the time had input on it.

When the ordinance passed, Walder said the intent was it would be reviewed in one to two years.

"That's what this charge was here, to do exactly that and the Planning Commission has done that and came back with their recommendations," he said.

The council had tabled deciding on the recommendations last month because they felt questions still needed to be answered. In that time, they also received a "lot of good input" from residents.

Council member Peter Doerr said that the ordinance was "always an evolving document."

"It was part of the process from day one that we were going to be looking at this annually to see what makes sense and what didn't," he said.

The proposed amendments include changing the occupancy rule to state that, instead of two people per bedroom plus two people per floor the ordinance would just state two adults per bedroom are allowed; that the homeowner must occupy the house that they rent for at least 28 nonconsecutive days per year and to enforce the rules that are in the ordinance that Walder said state that, if the person who's renting out the home gets three tickets their rental license is pulled.

He said that this needs to be enforced "in such a way to actually cause compliance."

"If someone calls there has to be a record of that - we have to follow up," Walder added.

It was decided that Ed Brandes, the police commissioner, would come up with wording on how a determination would be made on a ticket and strike.

Police chief Ryan Layman said that the ordinance currently reads that a complaint must be adjudicated in district court before being counted as a strike. There was discussion that Layman and the village attorney investigate if noise complaints and parking issues can count as a strike against a rental company if police arrive on scene and there is an issue that can be documented.

The Planning Commission was requesting the occupancy rule change to mirror the health department's rules, which state that septic systems on a house are based on the number of bedrooms that are there.

Walder said that, due to the village not allowing commercial properties, they don't want someone to buy or build a house there, only to just rent it and never use it themselves.

Residents who spoke during public comments expressed concerns that ranged from the enforcement, utilizing the resources the village already has in place, such as its police force, to make complaints and maintaining the community's residential character.

Allan Boyd, who said his family has been in Grand Beach for five generations, said that he's concerned about the requirement about owners residing at the rental, asking what happens when the current generation passes and the "people it's passed to are living a distance away." He added that there was talk of a "grandfather clause not requiring residency."

"Whether to not it stays within the family might need to be incorporated into whatever decision you make, he said.

Boyd added that people who have rented have also ended up buying houses in the area.

Jared Bischoff said that his family didn't realize their five-bedroom home would only qualify as a three-bedroom one when they bought it in 2018. When it was decided inspections were needed, egress windows were added and the septic tank that was big enough for a five-bedroom home was installed to meet the new requirements.

"Even though it's a large square footage home, we're finding that our occupancy is going to go from 14 down to eight with this proposal... We put substantial effort into meeting the new requirements and now we're talking about changing them once again," he said.

Dean Thuente said that one rental directly behind him is listed for 19 occupants and that another one has 16 people listed, adding "that's no house, that's a hotel."

He said he's had to call the police at 2 a.m. because of noise-related issues.

"When you drive past and there're 11 cars in the parking area of the house, that's not what this neighborhood was meant to be... There needs to be enforcement of the noise violations and there have to be repercussions," he said.

Council members accepted the recommendation of the Planning Commission on the final site plan for "The Haven" for zoning approval by the village council under Section 13.10 of the Village Zoning Ordinance, with the approval being subject to final village attorney approval of the Development Agreement and Condominium

documents, and other state, county and Village approvals that may be required.

Brandes gave an update on a currently unfunded project in the village, a proposed new police station.

He said it'd be a joint project with the Village of Michiana, since both villages share a police force under a five-year joint policing agreement, with the new contract having begun Jan. 1.

Timing is right for this project, as Brandes said they'd like to invest in Layman's leadership as well as the "strong relationship" Grand Beach shares with Michiana's leadership.

He said a particular site, which is owned by the village, for a new station is being explored that has a "lot of potential" and that they can split the construction cost with Michiana.

A representative from the office of Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI) toured Grand Beach's current facility.

"Since the political environment has changed and there's more of a reciprocity to support the police in general, there's a very real potential of federal funding of a new police station," Brandes said.

A letter with more information on a potential new station, including potential funding sources, will be sent to residents.

Council members approved Layman proceeding with a new hire for the police department at his discretion.

Board members approved the following appointments to the Beach Resilience Committee: Ed Trainor; John Jennings; Kevin Keeley; Bob Acker; Paul Powers; Kathy Byrnes; Lori Thuente; Dave Hogaboom; and Joe Farwell.

Walder said that the village will have paid off its water meter replacements as of the end of this year. Council members approved the implementation of a monthly fee of \$3, which is a reduction of the \$10 monthly fee, beginning Jan. 1, 2026, to cover the cost for annual maintenance, repairs and remote fees.

Walder said that they'd like to have at least one or two more members on the Tree Committee and that those who are interested should contact either him, Dave Manecke, the head of the committee, or clerk Kim Wolnik.

Jack Grace, pro shop and golf course commissioner, said that the golf cart sticker fees and golf course fees will be left as is for this year.

The purchase of 10 new push carts for the golf course at a cost of \$1,261.60 was approved.

Council members approved staff job descriptions and the evaluation forms.

Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber announces Business Recognition Award winners

For a second year in a row, 600 of Southwest Michigan’s business leaders gathered Friday, Feb. 21, for the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber’s Business Recognition Breakfast Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Corewell Health and Honor Credit Union.

The meeting featured a return keynote from internationally acclaimed TED Talk speaker, and Wall Street Journal bestselling author Drew Dudley, recognized eight businesses, organizations and individuals as award winners, recapped 2024’s 70th anniversary which saw the launch of two new 501(c)3 organizations and announced the return of ActionLine the Chamber’s quarterly news publication.

“Relaunching ActionLine has been a goal for the Chamber since I began my tenure with the organization in 2020. I’m proud to say it returns, officially in 2025,” said President and CEO Arthur Havlicek. “The Chamber has undergone a tremendous amount of growth over the last year by adding not just new entities under our umbrella, but through the four additional staff that we’ve brought on board since March of 2024.”

The event wrapped up with the announcements from the day’s live voting of the Business Recognition Awards. Winners include:

THE PAT MOODY AWARD

Michelle Heit is the current supervisor of New Buffalo Township, a position she has held since 2016 after serving

as a trustee on the Township Board for three years. Throughout her tenure, Heit has spearheaded a variety of impactful projects, including the development of the Marquette Greenway, Red Arrow Highway Linear Park, and the construction of the township’s new public safety building. She has also overseen enhancements to I-94 Exit 1, the acquisition of Pleasure Isle Marina, and the revitalization of Union Pier. Heit is an active member of both the Medic 1 Ambulance Board and the Galien River Sanitary District Board.

Before her public service career, Heit was a successful small business owner for 30 years. A proud native of Berrien County, she cherishes her deep local roots, living on property in New Buffalo Township that has been in her family since 1855. In her spare time, Heit is an avid runner and enjoys spending quality time with her four grandchildren.

NON-PROFIT EXCELLENCE AWARD

Harbor Country Mission is a barrier-free organization dedicated to serving individuals and families in need throughout Southwest Michigan. Open seven days a week, 365 days a year, HCM provides essential support, including food, clothing, household goods, furniture, appliances, and even pet supplies.

BEST NEW BUSINESS AWARD

The Lab. Martial Arts & Fitness is a premier training facility in Southwest Michigan, offering expert instruction in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, kickboxing, wrestling and fitness. Led by an

experienced group of coaches, the gym fosters a friendly, welcoming yet challenging environment for all skill levels. The Lab. is dedicated to empowering individuals through discipline, fitness, and personal growth.

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Villwocks Outdoor Living is a multi-dimensional outdoor living provider, with two beautiful retail garden centers, outdoor power equipment sales and service, as well as a plethora of services provided.

ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD

Honor Credit Union is a non-profit, full-service financial institution headquartered in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Originally chartered in 1934 in Benton Harbor, Honor has grown to serve over 110,000 members through 28 branch locations across western and northern Michigan.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

The Silver Beach County Park Playground Project is replacing a 30+ year old playground with a new, improved, accessible playground that invites all visitors to come and play together without barriers or limitations. To accommodate the increase in park usage and better address the diversity of visitors’ needs, improvements and upgrades like the Silver Beach County Park Playground Project are essential. This project was approved as a National Demonstration Site through Playcore, which will help County Parks gather data to determine

the playground’s impact on the community and help determine best practices for future parks projects.

RISING STAR AWARD

Sarah Lancaster is the general manager of South Shore Health and Racquet Club. She played and was the co-captain of the tennis team at St. Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana. Today, she continues to play in tennis leagues with SSHRC members.

Other projects Lancaster participates in include her involvement for seven years with the Women’s Service League and being co-chair of the Operation Coats project that takes place every fall. Lancaster also sits on the NexGen Board of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, is the head coach of the Saint Joseph High School girls’ varsity tennis team and has overseen the girls at State in their past three seasons.

AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

Leanne Brownfield is the assistant vice president at Sturgis Bank in Berrien County. With 15 years in community banking, she specializes in business, municipal and private banking. She is passionate about helping her customers, actively volunteers in her community and is proud to serve as a Chamber Ambassador.

The full list of this year’s Chamber nominees and award recipient information is available at www.smrchamber.com. —

STAFF REPORTS

MARDI GRAS PARTY TO BENEFIT NEIGHBOR BY NEIGHBOR

Hummingbird Lounge will be hosting its third annual Mardi Gras Party at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 1, in the Garden Bar.

The cost of \$30 includes a NoLa themed buffet, King Cake, one drink ticket for Mardi Gras themed cocktails and a live deejay.

Highlights include Chicken Gumbo, Hurricanes, Sazeracs, and French 75s.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Neighbor by Neighbor, a nonprofit resource for low-income neighbors in southwest Berrien County. Hummingbird Lounge is located at 9 South Barton St. in New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

CHURCH OF THE MEDIATOR HOSTING 'SHROVE TUESDAY'

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator will hold its annual Shrove Tuesday (a.k.a. Mardi Gras) gathering and Pancake Supper beginning at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 4.

Please gather in the church bell tower to end the season after Epiphany in the traditional way—by burning the palms and burying the alleluias. Palms will be burned outside on the belltower entrance walk to create the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service at 5:30 p.m. March 5. Everyone will then gather in community, to eat pancakes and have fun in the church basement at 5:30 p.m.

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator is located at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert.

— STAFF REPORTS

Moped driver arrested following chase

BY STAN MADDUX

Police say a Michigan City area man was found with drugs after leading officers on a motor vehicle chase with a moped.

Shane Leslie, 29, was still being held Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the La Porte County Jail on \$1,500 bond.

He's charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with resisting law enforcement and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 6 felonies, along with Class C misdemeanor possession of paraphernalia.

According to court documents, Leslie about 1 a.m. Feb. 16 ignored efforts by an officer with his lights and siren activated to pull him over for traveling 10 miles per hour above a 30-mph zone

on Michigan City's east side, according to court documents.

Police said the pursuit went southbound on Karwick Road and veered onto Warnke Road before the suspect in his bid to get away began riding the moped along some railroad tracks and crashed.

Eventually, he was grabbed during a foot pursuit in a nearby parking lot. Police said Leslie was found in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine and a smoking pipe.

Leslie was also ticketed for speeding, disregarding a stop sign and not having a valid driver's license, police said.

Plug pulled on marijuana dispensary sign

BY STAN MADDUX

La Porte County officials have pulled the plug on a lighted sign advertising a marijuana dispensary in Michigan outside New Buffalo.

The mobile sign was along U.S. 12 outside a fireworks store paid by a dispensary to have the sign on its property.

The sign is now prohibited from being there because the La Porte County Board of Zoning Appeals on Tuesday, Feb. 18, denied a request by the fireworks store manager for a zoning variance to keep the sign at that location.

The board heard from Derek Thompson, who lives on Grand Beach Road directly across the street from where the sign existed for a couple of weeks.

Thompson said the LED sign, even with the blinds on the windows of his house closed, was a disruption to the peace of his family after sunset.

"This sign is extremely bright. It ruins our night within our home," he said.

The BZA felt the sign resting in the back of a truck posed a hazard to drivers because of how bright and close it was to the edge of the four lane highway.

"I tend to agree with that as well, especially when those LED lights are at a lower level. I feel it's a safety concern," said BZA President Melissa Mischke.

Mischke also expressed support for a proposed statewide ban on advertising marijuana dispensaries because of how prolific billboards promoting marijuana shops have become in Indiana, where the drug remains illegal.

"I, too, as a Hoosier, I'm just generally offended by Michigan's pot advertisement in my face," she said.

She and other BZA members were also upset the sign remained there after an order was issued to remove it until the board later decided the matter.

Three Oaks/River Valley Queens Committee presenting Gown and Suit Sale

The Three Oaks/River Valley Queens Committee invites everyone to sell the dresses and suits filling up their closets or find the perfect attire for proms, parades and wedding season, or a special event, at the annual Gown Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at the United Methodist Church in Three Oaks.

Those who have gowns or suits taking up space in their closet can bring them to the church from 6-8 p.m. Friday, March 14. Those who bring items set their own price and for \$5 per item, the committee will do their best to sell the dresses. Accessories and shoes can also be sold at \$2 per set.

Admission is \$1 at the door on Saturday.

The Three Oaks/River Valley Pageant Committee runs the local pageants, including Miss and Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley, Miss Teen Three Oaks/River Valley, and Little Miss and Little Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley pageants.

For more information, email missthreeoaksrivervalley@gmail.com or contact Brittney at 269-612-0215.

The United Methodist Church is located just four blocks north of the red light on US 12 at 2 Sycamore St. East in Three Oaks. — STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

‘Wooden Boxes and Pipes!’ concert on tap for next month

The School of American Music will present a Michigan City Chamber Music Festival (MCCMF) concert for children titled “Wooden Boxes and Pipes!” at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert.

The performance will be a fun and interactive showcase for children of all ages. It will demonstrate the sounds and ranges of stringed and woodwind instruments.

Audience members can enjoy participating as musicians during the presentation, and many fun and educational pieces of music will be performed. The performers and presenters will be Nic Orbovich, violin/viola; Jennet Ingle, oboe/English horn; and Sunny Gardner-Orbovich, education director, MCCMF.

Nicolas Paul Orbovich is artistic director for the Michigan City Chamber Music Festival (MCCMF). Orbovich has been honored internationally, and he enjoys a reputation as an outstanding recording artist in many genres. Orbovich has performed on stage with some of the most acclaimed names in classical music including Itzhak Perlmutter, Yo Yo Ma and Leonard Slatkin as well as popular music artists like Rod Stewart, Michael Bolton and Roger Daltrey.

Jennet Ingle is a concert oboist. She has built an active career around performing, teaching and making oboe reeds. She has been Principal Oboist of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra since 2006. Ingle’s lifelong interest in new music led to a recent commissioning project - Dreams and Visions (Searching the Shadows) by Marjorie

Rusche - a triptych based on cards from the Tarot deck.

Sunny Gardner-Orbovich is education director of MCCMF and she has a growing reputation as one of Northwest Indiana’s most respected artistic pedagogues for children. Gardner-Orbovich was an art teacher in the Michigan Area Schools System for 20 years. Gardner-Orbovich is an active violist with the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra and is co-founder of the MCCMF. She is also co-founder of the Michigan City Ecumenical Community Children’s Choir and founder of the MCCMF’s “Children’s Choir Camp.”

Admission to the concert is free, but a non-perishable food item donation is requested for Neighbor by Neighbor, a nonprofit connecting vulnerable residents of Southwest Berrien County with resources and services. Donations of pull-tab cans of soups, stews, canned tuna, ravioli, spaghetti or anything easy to heat are preferred items.

The nonprofit School of American Music (SAM) provides an array of services including free concerts, music lessons, music enrichment assemblies, and community events. The SAM Family Concert Series is made possible by a grant from the Pokagon Fund, private donations, and the Episcopal Church of the Mediator providing the venue.

For more information, contact SAM at 269-409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or visit School of American Music on Facebook or the website www.schoolofamericanmusic.com.

— STAFF REPORTS

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



The pitchers and catchers reported. The rest of the players arrived and started working out. Within a week, everyone was ready to play a game. The teams needed some outside competition and the preseason schedule pitted the mighty Los Angeles Dodgers against the lowly Chicago Cubs in the preseason opener for both teams.

Every baseball team knows that preseason results don’t mean a thing, but all teams are made up of players fighting for their jobs. Cub fans aren’t sure if the team made enough improvements to be serious contenders this season, and everyone wanted to see how Cub players stacked up against the all powerful Dodgers.

Each team trotted out a combination of rookies and old timers with a smattering of regulars. The pitchers threw an inning or two, and when all was said and done, the Cubs had spanked the Dodgers by a score of 12-4. The next day the two teams met again and the results were the same with the Cubs prevailing by a score of 7-3.

Again, when the regular season begins, these results will be meaningless, but Cub nation, and a bunch of Cub players, are beginning to believe that the playoffs may be within reach this season.

After the victories over the Dodgers, I wouldn’t have been surprised to see a letdown in their next game against the struggling Chicago White Sox, but this year’s spring training Cubs weren’t interested in a letdown. The Cubs handled the Sox 7-3 for their third straight victory. Before the Cubs took on the Texas Rangers

Sunday, I decided that I wanted to devote today’s column to their hot start, and so far this year the Cubs refuse to disappoint me. The Rangers fell 6-5 for the Cubs fourth straight win.

Being a Cub fan who has been disappointed many times in life, as soon as Sunday’s game ended I started to worry that they were going to win too many games in the preseason which would somehow have a negative effect on how many they would win during the regular season, but then I stopped. I think that wait until next year will not be the in the cards this season.

It is certainly not impossible that the Cubs will reach the playoffs this season. After that, anything is possible and if they can stay healthy and play up to their capabilities, anything can happen. The Cubs roster may not be as deep as some of the best teams, but their every day lineup is certainly solid, as is their starting pitching.

The addition of outfielder Kyle Tucker will be a huge upgrade. Thank goodness there has been a big turnover in their relief pitching and the new guys have to be a lot better than the bullpen group from last year. I’m confident that the Cubs will be an exciting, winning baseball team this season.

Winnie the Pooh said, “Rivers know this: There is no hurry. We shall get there some day.”

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

*Islam, if I want to, I can finish you. If I want to,
I can knock you out. I’ll make it look easy ...*
—Ilia Topuria



Bison stampede Mustangs in boys' basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team ended the regular season with a blowout victory on the road against their arch rivals from River Valley.

The Bison (14-8) seemed to make a statement for the upcoming District 4 post season tournament with their 67-47 victory Friday, Feb. 21.

"They're rounding into shape at the right time," said New Buffalo Head Coach Nate Tripp, who seemed obviously pleased with his team's performance. "They played their hearts out," he said.

A three point shot early in the first quarter from Adam Slavens brought the Mustangs back to within five points, but that was as close as they would get. The Bison extended their lead to 10 points on a three point shot from Sam Tripp just before the start of the second quarter. Despite Slavens sinking two more three-point shots, the Bison, with help from two three-point buckets from Trevor James, went into halftime with a 16-point lead. The lead grew to 21 points in the third quarter following an acrobatic short bank shot from M'Nason Smothers and Lucas

Forker laying the ball into the net from close to the rim. The Bison extended their lead to 26 points with another short bucket from Forker with about five minutes left in the game.

Forker led the Bison with 18 points. James finished with 16 points. Slavens led the Mustangs with 19 points. The Bison defeated River Valley (11-10) by just four points on January 10.

Tripp said his team's stellar performance had a lot to do with solid execution and his players being more aware now of what's expected from them on the court. "They're starting to understand their roles and things they can do and things they can't do. That's kind of big thing, too, understanding what you can't do," he said. Tripp said his players also played hard in all facets of the game. "When we play like that, we're a tough team," he said.



Raiders lose to Mendon at River Valley

JB Y STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders gave a quality team from Mendon all they could handle in girls' high school basketball until collapsing late in the game at home Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Mendon, with help from a slew of turnovers, scored 11 of the last 13 points in the final three minutes of the fourth quarter to win 46-37 at River Valley High School.

Raiders Head Coach Jason Alexander said his promising squad of mostly sophomores can "play with anybody," but must overcome the mistakes in ball handling and passing that has been a season long weakness at times.

"It's just an ugly monster that we have to slay," he said.

The Raiders (9-10) got off to an impressive start when Laney Strother nailed two quick jump shots and Shyann Spaulding grabbed a pass close to the rim to score.

A three-point bucket from Peyton Swaim followed by a short turn around jump shot by Addison Lynch put the Raiders ahead 11-2.

The Hornets began putting more pressure on the ball, though, which led to streak of turnovers by the Raiders and the score even at halftime.

The continued three-point shooting from Swaim was a major factor in the Raiders keeping the score close and, occasionally, regaining the lead throughout much of the second half.

Swaim, after grabbing a nifty pass from Spaulding, also scored near the net to put the Raiders up by two points with less than four minutes left on the game clock.

That was the last bucket from the fading Raiders until Harper Bowman nailed a 15-foot shot from the baseline in the final seconds.

Swaim led the Raiders with 16 points. Strother finished with 6 points, while Emma Seifert added four points.

Alexander said his offense before the District 4 tournament early next month must get better at not making the costly mistakes it made while being tightly guarded by Mendon.

"We're heading into March now, so, we got to be able to handle that kind of pressure," he said.



FILM GROUP TO FEATURE MICHIGAN CITY FILMMAKER

In celebration of International Women's Day, "On the Wings of Change," a documentary about the creation of a mural in Chicago that honors 10 local woman suffragists, will be screened at the New Buffalo Township Library Saturday, March 8.

Presented by the Harbor Country Film Group, the screening will include an introduction by Michigan City filmmaker Rana Segal, the documentary director, who will also screen the film.

"On the Wings of Change" tells the stories of each of the suffragists featured in the mural, and challenges viewers to reflect on the courage, perseverance and persistence of these important historical figures.

Segal is an award-winning director, producer and cinematographer. Her work has aired on PBS, The Learning Channel and the Discovery Health Channel. She received Emmy nominations for a documentary about another Chicago mural and a film about the Indiana Dunes. She is currently getting high praise for "The Light of Truth: Richard Hunt's Monument to Ida B. Wells," which premiered at the Chicago International Film Festival in 2024.

The Harbor Country Film Group meets at 1 p.m. at the New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. All are welcome to attend, and there is no charge for admission. As always, free popcorn will be served. — STAFF REPORTS

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Two county pursuit ends with crash, injuries

BY STAN MADDUX

more than 30-mile police chase ended with a violent crash and injuries the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb. 25, in La Porte County.

La Porte County Police said an officer tried stopping the driver on the Indiana Toll Road for tailgating a semi-truck but the sport utility vehicle accelerated, triggering a pursuit where the suspect veered around stop sticks placed in the road to try and flatten the vehicle's tires.

Eventually, the suspect conducted a U-turn near Portage and headed back eastbound.

Police said the chase after reentering La Porte County veered from the Toll Road to U.S. 421 until the SUV left the road and crashed, rolling several times before coming to rest near Westville.

The driver, Kleve Panayoty, 42, of Brooklyn, New York, fled on foot but was soon apprehended, police said.

Two passengers were taken to an area hospital with undisclosed injuries.

Panayoty is charged with resisting law enforcement and leaving the scene of a crash, both Level 6 felonies, along with Class C misdemeanor never receiving a license.

Multiple other agencies such as La Porte Police, Indiana State Police and the Porter County Sheriff's Office were involved in the pursuit.



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A Day in the Life LIMPING TO FITNESS

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER



I am not a spring chicken anymore. When I had my 25th ambulance call of the new year, I was compelled to go directly to the emergency room. I resisted because I didn't think it was necessary just for falling down but my newly befriended ambulance drivers disagreed. We rumbled off to St. Joseph's sleek newly remodeled and renamed Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital, seemingly their fourth name in about as many years.

I now knew the ambulance guys, as well as each turn and landmark on the route to the hospital since I went there often when my wife was ill. I was raced through the glassy halls to my assigned exam room while three wind-up nurses pummeled me with questions and instructed me to remove my clothes. The first doctor arrived who could have passed for eighteen. I reluctantly removed my clothes in front of a room-full of people, there was murmuring between them, then the doctor vanished. A second doctor arrived who looked like the first one's dad and took a quick look at me and left. I learned that it was best if I just remained silent. Nurse Grouch let me know that.

Sitting in my birthday suit I was wondering to myself "What am I doing here?" The clear answer to that was "I don't know". I did know that I had to go to the bathroom.

I was starting to go but stopped when I heard the young doctor's voice. "What are you doing?" he asked naively. "Trying to pee!" I replied stupidly (I never could go with anyone closer than a half block from me). That was my initiation to the Emergency Room at the most elegantly designed hospital in the state. It got better, a lot better when I was moved to a private room. I was then inspected and examined by several nurses clad in plastic gowns to protect them from any germs. The room was marvelous and I calculated in my mind that it had to be at least a \$50,000 architectural outlay. I enjoyed it as well as the very nice and professional nursing staff. After being inspected and tested I was deemed safe for mankind and the nurses removed their plastic gowns. They asked if I would like anything to eat. A nice platter of delicious food appeared moments later. I spent the night, then was reluctantly transferred to the

facility for physical therapy at the bland old building in Bridgman called West Woods of Bridgman. I surprisingly experienced premium care by the staff. I was given a private room with a magnificent view of the natural woods outside my window. The staff made me feel very comfortable.

My friends took my Roscoe home to care for him in my absence, which was very nice of them especially not knowing I would be gone for ten days! I began physical therapy the next morning and stayed under the care of the gifted therapist who had been there 25 years. I remained there for ten days and I basically enjoyed my stay. Meanwhile I was visited by Roscoe and my friends Matt and Kipp who were stuck with caring for him. Good friends are important.

In the meanwhile my house and kitchen was being torn apart for a new kitchen floor that required all of the subflooring being replaced because of a water leak. The lucky devil taking on this nightmare was my brother Jeff, the poor guy who was three and a half hours from home and felt he had to stay until the job was done by his own professional standards. It ended up being a four day job with the help of another friend Bob Keller who's tools and expertise was truly appreciated. In the meanwhile; Pace of Southwest Michigan had taken several moves forward to prepare my home for my return as a cripple confined to a wheelchair.

Furniture had to be moved to accommodate the ease of the wheel chair movement which meant many of my home furnishings had to be moved including the baby grand piano. They did a great job considering I am a maniac about my furnishings. Naomi, the therapist guru, did a great job with accommodations to address my handicap. Additionally a ramp was built for the wheelchair. I could not have wished for more kind gestures and arrangements. They arranged for caregivers three times a day to wait on my every need. I have a lot to be grateful for and I thank God every day for all of the great people taking charge on my behalf. As my chief caretaker, my dear brother was coordinating all of these operations in addition to installing my new floor. Family is a good thing too.

HOROSCOPE

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 5, 2025
AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19



This week is a good time to pull back and maintain your privacy to avoid coming off as a pretender. Be more introspective and contemplative rather than oversharing for validation or to show off. Because what you identify with or how you define yourself will be changing in the month ahead.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20



Where you find comfort and companionship will be undergoing some changes this week. What was once a place where you felt you could be yourself may feel restrictive and uncertain now. Know that you are being pushed from your comfort zone in order to move you towards more independence.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21



Put your energy towards long range planning rather than enjoying immediate results and showing off. This is the time to delay gratification and minimize waste. Hold onto things and investigate them slowly before discarding them. Their true value and importance may not be readily apparent.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22



The vibe radiating towards you this week is all about getting educated, exploring new options. Be ready to study and do the research work when new opportunities arise. You will be in a much better position to take charge and succeed when you know exactly where the pitfalls are.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22



The energy this week will push you to transcend problems by seeking the help of others. The best way for you to rise above strife and struggles will be asking for the support of others or calling in commitments made to you by people from the past. Accept it; you are not alone.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22



It's time to break free from emotional restraints and start expressing yourself more. By telling people how you feel you are no longer bound to their interpretation of the relationship. It is time to give your side of the story and not allow others to dominate the narrative.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22



Take time to really observe what people are doing before acting or making quick judgments. This week is the time to scrutinize and discern. Watch what people say and then do in situations. Being silent and nonreactive is key to understanding the emotional components or consequences of acting.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21



Utilize a more holistic approach to life's problems this week. There are three components at work when living and experiencing life the physical, mental and emotional components. These three parts of our experiences interact and affect each other. Honor all aspects and you will succeed.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21



Domestic and family situations are best handled by removing individual perspectives and instead look for points of intersection. This is the time to do what's best for all concerned. Don't make decisions based on differences. Find the point all can agree on and start from there.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19



You will be dealing with situations and people that are not necessarily of your choosing but are unavoidable. Before you engage it is important you do your homework and if you don't know something, admit it. Faking it or misrepresenting facts will only create more problems.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



What one person considers beautiful or worth pursuing may not be considered worthwhile by others. Everyone has a unique perspective based on their own experiences. Therefore, we often go after things based on our own insecurities or what part of ourselves, we see in the situation.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20



When starting something new or making changes take a more circumspective approach. Look at all the extenuating positions and conditions that will change along with the immediate reward you desire. There is more to see and understand here; investigate and do the research.

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Sudoku
Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	1	3						2
				2		4		
9		8			4			
				5	9	2		
		2		6				
	8				3	1	6	
		4	6					
				3				5
	3				8		1	

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Broad structural basin
5 Prayer beads
9 Island
12 In the same place (Lat.)
13 Above
14 Cheer
15 Verdi opera
16 Shortly
17 Nat'l Security Agency (abbr.)
18 Drunk driving (abbr.)
20 House (Fr.)
22 Article
25 Atl. Coast Conference (abbr.)
27 Explosive letters
28 King
29 Wound mark
31 Dull color
34 Dance company (abbr.)

DOWN

35 Immature insect
37 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
38 Lake
40 Television channel
41 Peeve
42 According to (2 words)
44 Atomic Energy Commission (abbr.)
45 Born
46 Enlarge
49 Body of water
51 Small (Scot.)
52 Ireland
54 Wildly talk
58 Insult
59 Pain
60 Nurse shark
61 Ibsen character
62 Grass
63 Us dam

3 Hezekiah
4 Top
5 Irish exclamation
6 Presa (2 words)
7 P.I. volcano
8 Emerge
9 Yearly church payment

9 Pressure
10 And
11 Birth a lamb
19 Stinging insect
21 Indiana (abbr.)
22 Trolley
23 Daughter of Zeus
24 Insert (2 words)
26 Rom. box
30 Colza
32 Berne's river
33 Roast
36 Noun-forming (suf.)
39 Guido's note (2 words)
43 Almost
46 Grape disease
47 Christmas (abbr.)
48 Gaming cubes
50 Ship of the Argonauts
53 Fluidity unit
55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
56 Ultimate degree
57 To (Scot.)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
				18	19		20		21			
22	23	24		25		26		27				
28				29		30		31		32	33	
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38			39		40					41		
				42		43		44		45		
46	47				48		49		50			
51				52		53			54	55	56	57
58				59					60			
61				62					63			

A man's character is his fate.
— Heraclitus

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

DETOX AND THERAPEUTIC BATH

Many famous wellness retreats around the world depend on baths for detoxification and healing. Our skin is the largest organ of elimination AND assimilation. Certain herbs and nutrients will pull poisons out through our skin while at the same time - offer up nutrients to assimilate into our skin. The easiest transfer for this is through baths.

The Turkish know detox baths best. They offer public bathhouses for anyone to retreat at any time. Turks are known to be quite healthy and exhibit great skin and hair. They have the sacred knowledge of health practices that have been passed on from generation to generation. Mimicking the Turkish bath, aka "hamam," is a wonderful way to kick-start the detoxification and relaxation process.

You can recreate your own Haman at home. There are many types of Detoxification baths that helps release toxins, and rejuvenate our bodies. One of the easiest is pouring raw apple cider vinegar and baking soda into your bath.

These ingredients will balance your skins pH level and reduce irritation and itching. It can help pull bacteria and fungi out through your skin. It nourishes with vitamins C and B, potassium, magnesium and calcium, as well asmoisturize and soften your skin.

Make yourself a cup of herbal tea. I like ginger tea when doing a hot bath, to help purge more toxins out of your body. Ginger boosts metabolism, helps with digestion and stirs up metabolic waste. In the stream of hot runningwater, pour 2 cups of raw apple cider vinegar and 1

cup of baking soda into your bath. No, you won't smell like vinegar. Make water hot, but not to burn your skin. Use a dim light, or turn the light off completely and light a couple of candles. You want to create an atmosphere of completerelaxation. Your body will detox much better when you are fully relaxed.

Let your mind wander and leave the stress of the day. Relax in this hot water for about 15 minutes. Short of purchasing Turkish exfoliating gloves, just get a natural loofa Mit. After soaking, brush your extremities and trunk towards your heart. No need to get rough, you are only sloughing off the dead skin that has dissolved away from the detox bath.

When you are finished with your bath, rinse quickly in the shower. Starting with a warm shower, let the water get colder until you are running it as cool as you can for one minute.

Have a soft towel on the floor to keep you from slipping and a cotton robe ready. When it is time to step out, don't towel dry. Just slip into your robe. Sit down for about 5 minutes as you may be dizzy. Again, keeping your mind clear. You are also detoxing your mind and thoughts here. When you are dry, leave the bathroom feeling renewed and regenerated.

Disclaimer: Nothing in these articles is meant to replace medical advice. If you are on medications, do not stop taking them. This is for educational purposes.

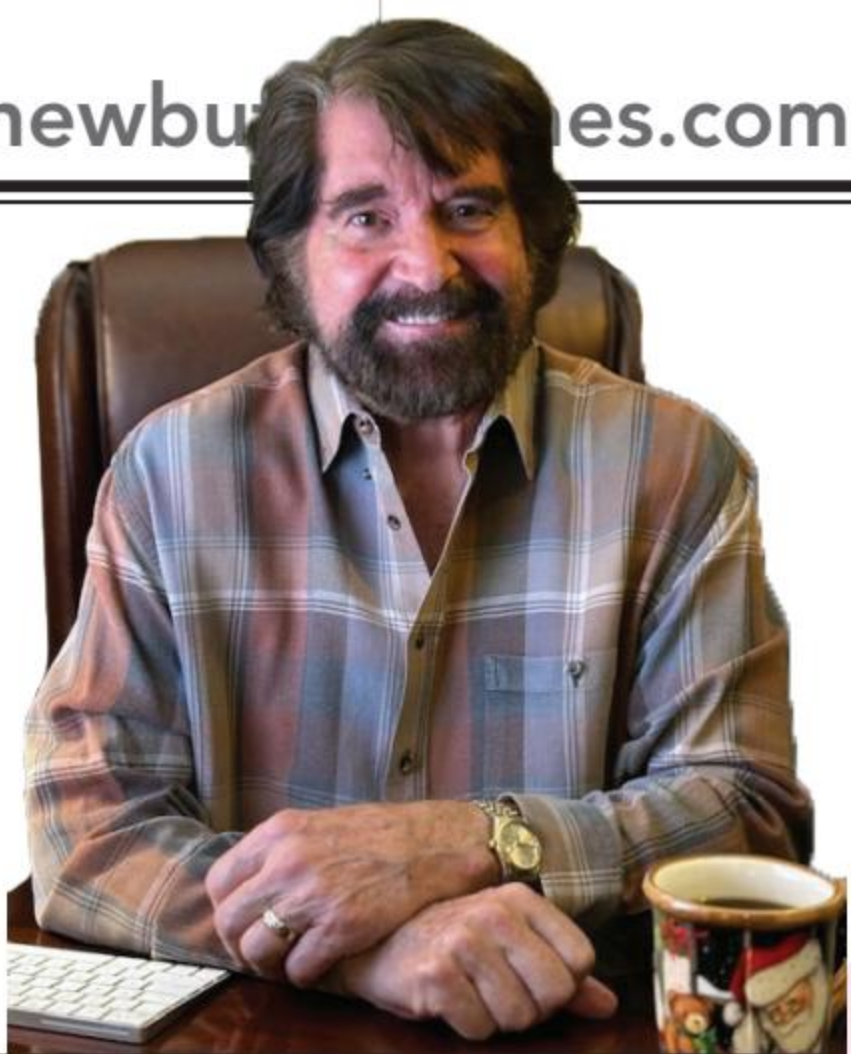
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Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.



A Writer's Life... DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER



Course Correction
I throw myself into my work. Once, years later, before Kim and I were married, I visit my future wife in Kansas City. A first grade teacher renting a bedroom in Kim's home knows I write for children's television and asks me to come speak to her class.

I give the children a small sense of what it takes to write for television and how much I love it. At the end of my lecture I ask if there are any questions. A six-year-old named Rachel asks, "Is writing hard work?"

I answer, "Well, there are days when I write for 10, 12, 14 hours; sometimes more. At the end of the day, I'm not tired like this..." as I point to my flexed bicep. "But I'm tired like this..." I say, pointing to my left temple.

Rachel thinks about this, then says, "Oh...I get it."

Now, after hours of reading and rereading the Series Bible for The Get Along Gang and making copious notes, this is one of those 14 hour days. I am exhausted, drenched in sweat. I hit the shower.

Towelng off, I realize I've gotten too full of myself. Jean, Andy and Lori weren't having meetings about how I "have potential and can be of benefit to them." And it's a stretch to think they are "grooming me for something".

Still, I've had three novels published and written three television scripts, with more on the horizon. I conclude that I'm in a good place. I'm 'positioning' myself, like Reggie Jackson, Sammy Sosa or Alex Rodriguez standing at home plate, waiting for a high, outside fastball.

Time marches on. Days turn into weeks, weeks into months, and I keep writing. I finish my The Get Along Gang script. I write two more scripts for The Littles. I'm still not getting any praise or accolades or even so much as an "Atta boy" from Jean. It would take another 15 years until he'd explain why he doesn't dole out praise and

accolades and Atta boys.

For now it doesn't matter. I accept it's just his way – no explanation needed.

I'm in the business now, so I decide to learn how it works. The first thing I learn is that a new engine is starting to drive children's television – toys, products and merchandise licensing revenues. For sure there were merchandise tie-ins in children's entertainment all the way back to Mickey Mouse in 1928. But now licensing tie-ins are coming into their own. Toys, products and merchandise sales generate huge revenues, providing production funds for television series. In turn, television series create exposure that generates more toy sales which, in turn, generates still more revenues that fund the production of new episodes and new seasons of series.

I do research and learn two of DIC' series, the ones I'm working on – The Littles and The Get Along Gang – don't have much in the way of merchandise licensing tie-ins and resulting revenues. That worries me. What will I do if the production funds for the shows aren't there and they don't get picked up for another season?

Something nags at me; something Lori said about how The Get Along Gang is owned by Those Characters from Cleveland, which, in turn, is owned by American Greetings. I wonder why she said that.

This is long before the internet, so I head to the library...

— — — — —

Jack Olesker's career in the entertainment industry spans over four decades. He has served as a story editor in L.A. as well as president of a motion picture and television company in Chennai, India. His writing ranges from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, Care Bears and Hello Kitty's Furry Tale Theater to documentaries and horror novels and murder mysteries for adults.

MHS' annual 'Pawction' coming next month

The Michiana Humane Society is thrilled to announce its fifth annual Cabin Fever Pawction, an online auction to support the care of its beloved shelter pets.

Last year, our Pawction was a resounding success and raised over \$30,000, all thanks to the generous contributions from individuals and businesses.

"The Cabin Fever Pawction is more than an event; it's a testament to our community's compassionate spirit and a critical source of support for our shelter pets," a press release stated.

Taking place from March 4-9, the auction will showcase a diverse array of unique experiences, items and services that have been donated by local businesses. Items will include vacation getaways, golfing, custom pet portraits, VIP shelter experiences, fitness packages, unique pet items, massages, live performance tickets, private dining experiences, sporting tickets, garden design and much more.

A preview of the items will be viewable starting March 2. Some of the items will be teased in MHS' social media under the event's Facebook page, as new item details will be dropped every day.

All items have been generously donated by individuals and businesses. Funds raised from the auction will go toward the hundreds of animals that Michiana Humane Society will care for in 2025. Anyone with an internet connection can participate.

For more information, visit www.michianapets.org/events. — **STAFF**

REPORTS

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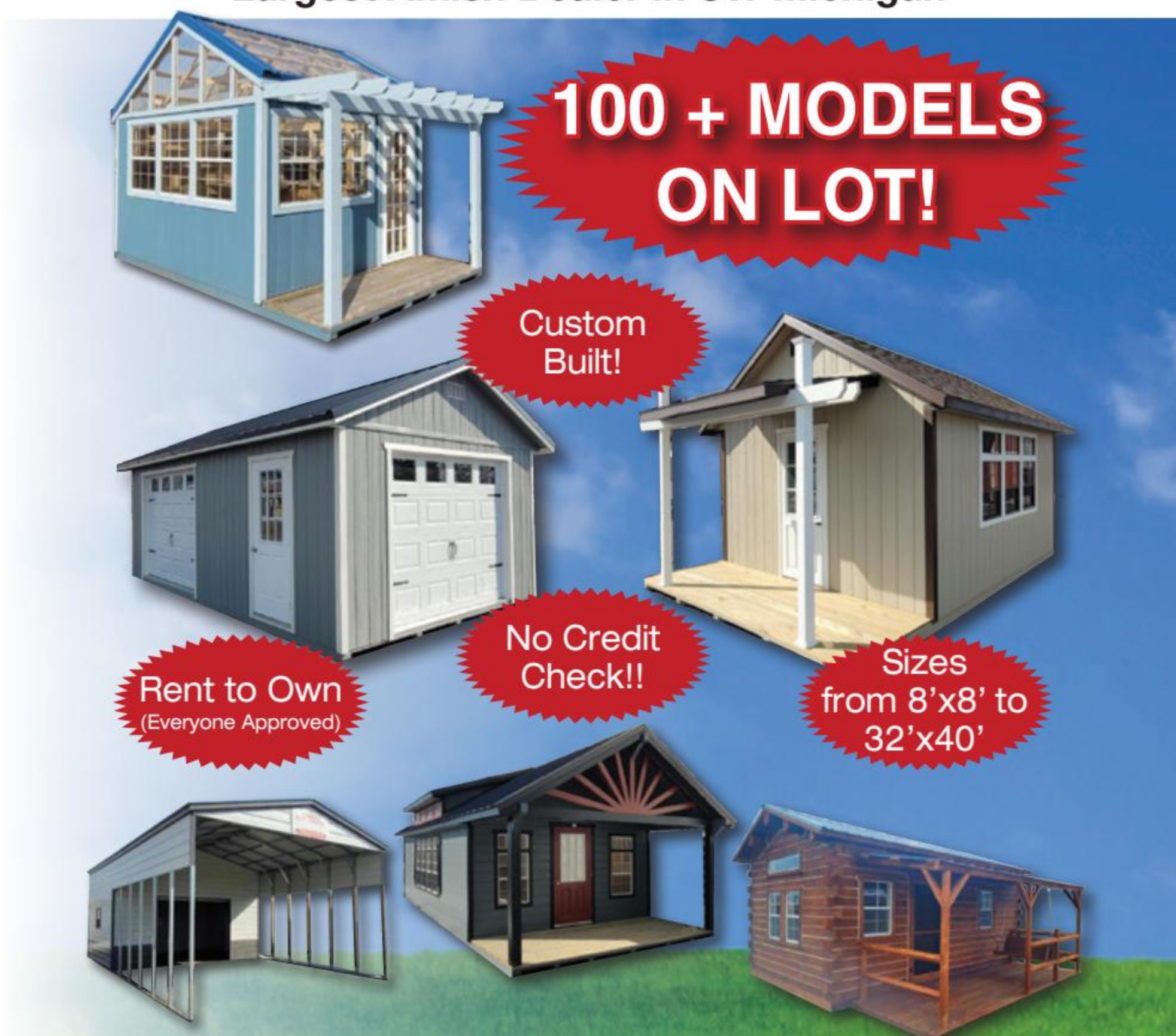
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Courthouse painted by artist rediscovering his talent

BY STAN MADDUX

A Long Beach man is flourishing as an artist some 30 years after putting down his brush to make a living at sales in Chicago.

The latest oil painting from Tim Perry is of the historic courthouse in downtown La Porte.

He recently donated the painting to La Porte County Clerk Heather Stevens, who has it hanging in her office inside the courthouse.

Stevens said the roughly four foot tall by two foot wide painting is easy to see for people walking up to her counter.

“We wanted it to be displayed where everyone could see it,” she said.

Perry, who grew up outside Chicago, was an art major at Illinois State University but, after frowning at the prospects of becoming a “starving artist,” chose to go into sales after graduating.

It wasn’t until 2016 when he started painting again, which his wife said would give him something to do while he was at home taking care of her during her recovery from breast cancer.

“To my amazement and to everybody’s amazement, I was pretty good still,” he said.

Perry, who now works full time as a realtor for Coldwell Banker in New

Buffalo, began churning out paintings and placing them in galleries.

His wife also completely recovered along the way.

Perry said a typical painting of his sells for \$5,000 to \$7,000 and he donates a percentage from each sale to breast cancer awareness.

“My wife is now healthy and I’m still an artist,” he said.

Stevens, who was familiar with Perry’s work as an artist, approached him about his interest in painting the courthouse.

Perry said he took pictures of the courthouse and used those images to begin creating its likeness on canvas in the studio of his home on Lake Shore Drive.

After putting in about 20 hours of work on the painting, Perry said he contacted Stevens to show her the finished product.

Originally, Stevens wanted the painting for herself and intended to pay him with her own money, but she was surprised when Perry chose to donate the painting to her.

Instead of taking it home, Stevens decided the rightful place for the painting was at the 1892 courthouse.

“It belongs in the building. It’s just a great thing to have in there,” she said.

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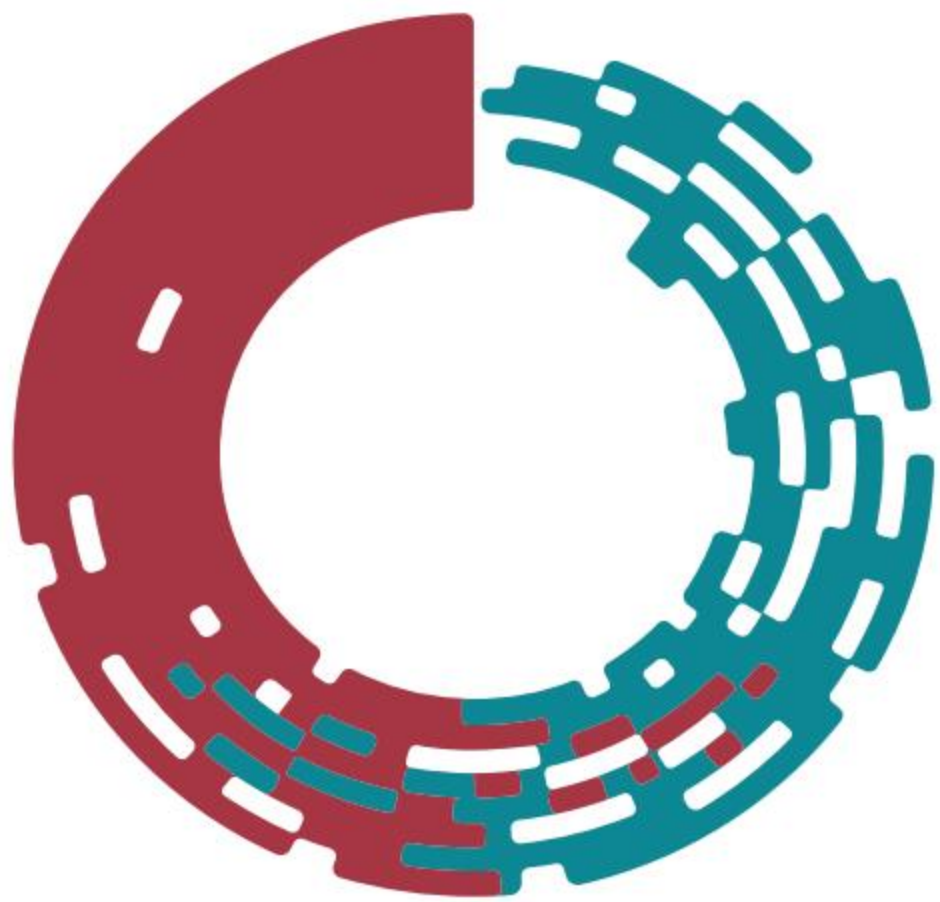
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